



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

2021 Washington State Energy Code Development

Energy Code Proposal Short Form

For editorial **Coordination, Clarifications & Corrections** only,
without substantive energy or cost impacts

May 2018

Log No. _____

Code being amended: ☒ **Commercial** Provisions ☐ **Residential** Provisions
(A MS Word version of the code is linked to the name)

Code Section # **C202 General Definitions**

Brief Description:

Clarify definition of building thermal envelope by referencing relevant definitions in the code and italicizing definitions for clarity. Add relevant wording from the definition of unconditioned spaces from 90.1-2019 to the 2021 WSEC definition of *enclosed space*.

Proposed code change text: (Copy the existing text from the Integrated Draft, linked above, and then use underline for new text and ~~strikeout~~ for text to be deleted.)

AIR BARRIER. One or more materials joined together in a continuous manner to restrict or prevent the passage of air through the *building thermal envelope* and its assemblies.

Commented [AW1]: Simply italicized *building thermal envelope* – no language added or removed

BUILDING THERMAL ENVELOPE. The *below-grade walls, above-grade walls, floors, ceilings, roofs, and any other building element assemblies that enclose conditioned space or provides a boundary between conditioned space, semiheated space and exempt or unconditioned space. meet one or more of the following criteria:*

- 1. Separate a conditioned space from a semiheated space, a refrigerated space in accordance with Section C410.2, a low energy space in accordance with Section C402.1.1, or an area that is not an enclosed space.*
- 2. Separate a semiheated space from a conditioned space, a refrigerated space, a low energy space, or an area that is not an enclosed space.*
- 3. Separate a refrigerated space from a low energy space or an area that is not an enclosed space.*

UNCONDITIONED SPACE. ~~An enclosed space within a building that is not a conditioned space, a semi-heated space, or a low energy space in accordance with Section C402.1.1. Crawlspace, attics, and parking garages with natural or mechanical ventilation are not considered enclosed spaces.~~

Commented [AW2]: Removed this definition. Low energy spaces already include unconditioned spaces.

ABOVE-GRADE WALL. ~~That portion of a wall in the building envelope A wall enclosing conditioned space~~ that is not a below-grade wall. This includes between-floor spandrels, peripheral edges of floors, roof knee walls, dormer walls, gable end walls, walls enclosing a mansard roof and skylight shafts.

Commented [AW3]: This didn't previously account for all space conditioning categories, just conditioned spaces.

BELOW-GRADE WALL. That portion of a wall in the *building envelope* that is entirely below the finish grade and in contact with the ground.

Commented [AW4]: Simply italicized *building envelope* – no language added or removed

September 3, 2021

ENCLOSED SPACE. A volume surrounded by solid surfaces such as walls, floors, roofs, and openable devices such as doors and operable windows. Unconditioned crawlspaces, attics, and parking garages with natural or mechanical ventilation are not considered enclosed spaces.

SEMI-HEATED SPACE. An *enclosed space* within a building, including adjacent connected spaces separated by an uninsulated component (e.g., basements, utility rooms, garages, corridors), which:

1. Is heated but not cooled, and has an installed heating system output capacity greater than or equal to 3.4 Btu/(h-ft²) but not greater than 8 Btu/(h-ft²);
2. Is not a *walk-in or warehouse cooler or freezer space*.

Commented [AW5]: Added text is pulled from the ASHRAE 90.1-2019 definition of an *unconditioned space*, with the word "unconditioned" added.

Also clears up the fact that although the building code has the definition *enclosed parking garage*, for energy code purposes, most parking garages are not classified as an *enclosed space*

Commented [AW6]: Simply italicized *enclosed space* and *walk-in or warehouse cooler or freezer space* – no language added or removed.

Purpose of code change:

Updated language to the definition of *building thermal envelope* to fully encompass all *space conditioning categories* which are subject to envelope requirements. Additionally, language added from ASHRAE 90.1-2019 aids in addressing ambiguous sections from the 2018 WSEC, including Section C406.1.

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Instructions: For use with Coordination, Clarifications & Corrections ONLY. Send this form as an email attachment, along with any other documentation available, to: sbcc@ga.wa.gov. For further information, call the State Building Code Council at 360-407-9277.